

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 004694

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, AR

SUBJECT: OLGA TALAMANTE

REF: STATE 001906; STATE 284026

AMBASSADOR HILL MET WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICERS JANUARY 7 FOR REVIEW OF TALAMANTE CASE. IN ADDITION TO RESPONSE TO ALL QUESTIONS RAISED REFTEL, DEPARTMENT ALSO URGENTLY NEEDS FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO RESPOND TO PROBABLE INQUIRIES FROM TALAMANTE FRIENDS AND FAMILY, MEDIA AND CONGRESS. IT IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT FOR DEPARTMENT TO BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN RAPID PROGRESS FROM INVESTIGATIVE STAGE, AT CLOSE OF YEAR, ON TO COURT ACTION AND CONVICTION.

1) DID TALAMANTE HAVE BENEFIT OF LEGAL COUNSEL DURING COURT HEARING RESULTING IN HER BEING "REMANDED" TO PRISON?

2) DID SHE ADMIT OR DENY CHARGES AGAINST HER? FYI IN NOVEMBER 27 LETTER TO PARENTS, MADE AVAILABLE BY FRIENDS, TALAMANTE INCLUDED FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: QUOTE. WHAT HAPPENED IS THAT I HAVE BEEN ARRESTED ALONG WITH SOME FRIENDS, UNDER THE CHARGE OF HAVING ARMS AND OF BEING IN OPPOSITION TO THE GOVERNMENT. I DON'T KNOW IF YOU

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REMEMBER, MAMA, OF THE TIMES I WROTE YOU TELL YOU THAT

HERE, THE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN THAT I KNOW HELP PEOPLE A LOT, ESPECIALLY THE HUMBLE PEOPLE, THOSE IN NEED. THAT IS WHY I TELL YOU THERE IS A CONFUSION, BECAUSE NONE OF US ATTEMPTED TO DO MORE THAN THIS. UNQUOTE.

3) WHEN ARGENTINES ARRESTED TALAMANTE WERE THEY AWARE SHE IS U.S. CITIZEN? IF SO, DID THEY INFORM HER OF HER RIGHTS AS CALLED FOR IN ARTICLE 36 (1) (B) OF VIENNA CONVENTION? KISSINGER

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